éirígí

for a socialist republic

éirígí is a socialist republican campaigns group that wants to see the ending of the British occupation of six Irish counties and the creation of an all-Ireland Republic that guarantees equal access to wealth and power for all the people of Ireland.

We are campaigning to ensure that the natural resources of Ireland are used for the benefit of the Irish people and not by private companies to generate profits. The campaign is focused on both the Dublin government's oil and gas giveaway and the British government's attempts to introduce water charges in the six counties.

The people of Ireland, are already being robbed of their oil and gas and they are about to be robbed of their water. This theft, which is being assisted by the political establishment, can be stopped if enough people demand it.
Don't wait for someone else to do it!

Find out more about éirígí and our natural resources campaign by logging onto
www.éirígí.org
Let us know if you want to help by e-mailing
naturalresources@eirigi.org **or by phoning 086 236 7298**
or by completing the form below and returning it to PO Box 10769

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éirígí

IMPORTANT BORD GÁIS NOTICE

88% INCREASE

PLEASE READ ON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PRICE INCREASE NOTIFICATION

V.AT No E 06610290
Account Queries:C/O Bertie Ahern TD Leinster House

Bord Gáis apologises for the 88% increase in the price of gas over the last four years.
Please read this leaflet for an explanation as to why you have had to pay this increase while at the same time the government has given away hundreds of billions of euros of Irish oil and gas to private energy companies.

BILLING PERIOD:	
DATE OF ISSUE:	
ACCOUNT NO:	

AMOUNT

IMPORTANT DOCUMENT
DO NOT THROW AWAY
88% INCREASE

CREDIT FINANCE INCLUDED

PLEASE PAY BY | **TOTAL**

88% INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF GAS

Since April 2003 Bord Gáis has increased the price of gas to domestic users by a massive 88%. This increase was needed because Bord Gáis buys its gas on the international market where the price of gas has been steadily increasing over the last number of years. All experts agree that this upward trend will continue over the coming years as the world demand for gas increases while at the same time the world's reserves of gas decrease. Despite this the Dublin government has given away massive reserves of Irish oil and gas to international energy companies.

HOW MUCH IRISH OIL AND GAS IS THERE?

The simple answer is nobody knows. The government have given energy companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and Statoil the right to explore for Irish oil and gas. Therefore the only available estimates for Ireland's oil and gas reserves come from figures supplied by the energy companies, which are renowned for their secretiveness. What we do know is that the oil and gas in the Corrib and Dunquin reserves alone are believed to have a combined worth of in excess of €440 billion*. For comparison the entire health budget for the 26 counties in 2006 was just over €12 billion.

*based upon est. reserves @ $60pb equivalent

CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC TREASON

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE OIL AND GAS?

The energy companies. In 1987 the then Minister for Energy Ray Burke abolished all royalty payments, ended all state involvement in oil and gas development and introduced a 100% tax write-off against capital expenditure for the energy companies. He did, however, leave the corporation tax rate for energy companies at 50% stating that any reduction would be 'over-generous'. Five years later Bertie Ahern reduced that rate to 25%! What all of this means is that the people of Ireland will receive virtually no benefit from their own oil and gas!

3,000 PREMATURE DEATHS PER YEAR*

THE HUMAN COST OF EXPENSIVE FUEL

Fuel poverty, which is defined as 'the inability to heat the home adequately because of low household income and energy inefficient housing', is a major contributory factor in the premature deaths of up to 3,000 people each year in Ireland. Fuel poverty disproportionately affects the elderly and those on low incomes. This is the real human cost of expensive fuel; older people dying of cold related illness because they are afraid to turn on their heating.

*Combat Poverty Agency & Help the Aged

CAN THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

Yes.
éirígí are calling on the Dublin government to set up a state company to develop our oil and gas reserves (as the Norweigan government did when it set up Statoil) and to renegotiate existing deals with the private energy companies.
The governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela have all recently moved to limit the profits of the energy companies and to ensure that their peoples benefit from the wealth generated by their own natural resources.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE OIL AND GAS?

éirígí believes that the oil and gas should be used to to secure Ireland's energy requirements over the coming years.
A portion of the wealth generated from the oil and gas should be used in the provision of essential services such as education, healthcare and housing with the remainder invested in renewable energy technology and in the elimination of fuel poverty.